

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-14

RSC-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06

FEA-02 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08

JUSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /267 W
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R 130855Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2607

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, JA

SUBJ: LOS: GOJ POSITION ON STRAITS AND OTHERE ISSUES

1. AS FOLLOW UP TO MOORE - SUGIHARA LUNCHEON MEETING IN TOKYO ON JUNE 7 (TOKYO 7604) AND IN LIGHT OF PRESS REPORTS THAT JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY (JDA) DIRECTOR YAMANAKA WAS TAKING STRONG POSITION IN FAVOR OF "INNOCENT PASSAGE" REGIME IN STRAITS, (TOKYO 7605), POL COUNS CALLED ON AMB SUGIHARA, DIR-GEN OF FONOFF LOS OFFICE ON MORNING JUNE 13.

2. STRAITS: SUGIHARA CONFIRMED THAT JDA AND FONOFF HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON STRAITS POSITION SO CABINET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 11 HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO JUNE 18. JDA, LOOKING ONLY AT JAPAN'S THREE STRAITS, AND NOT AT ALL AT GLOBAL SECURITY PROBLEMS, IS PUSHING FOR INNOCENT PASSAGE IN STRAITS, SUGIHARA SAID HE HAD MET WITH HIGH LEVEL JDA OFFICIALS ON JUNE 9, AND THEY HAVE DISCUSSED
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POSSIBILITY OF SOLVING PROBLEM BY INCLUDING PHRASE SUCH AS

"DUE CONSIDERATION MUST BE PAID TO SECURITY PROBLEM" IN INSTRUCTIONS TO LOS DELEGATION. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, JDA DIRECTOR YAMANAKA AGAIN RAISED ARGUMENT FOR INNOCENT PASSAGE, AND THE PROBLEM REMAINS UNRESOLVED. FONMIN OHIRA PERSONALLY AND FONOFF IN GENERAL BELIEVE GOJ MUST SUPPORT US POSITION ON STRAITS, SUGIHARA SAID, BUT UNTIL INTERNAL BUREAUCRATIC DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED GOJ MAY HAVE TO CONTINUE ITS RESERVATIONS ON OVERFLIGHT AND SUBMERGED PASSAGE IN STRAITS. SUGIHARA SAID THAT HE AND OTHERS IN FONOFF ARE CONTINUING TO MEET WITH JDA OFFICIALS TO CONVINCE THEM OF GLOBAL IMPORTANCE OF FREE PASSAGE IN STRAITS AND TO PERSUADE THEM THAT UNDER LOS REGIME CALLING FOR UNIMPEDED TRANSIT, PASSAGE OF NUCLEAR VESSELS THROUGH JAPANESE STRAITS WILL NOT CONSTITUTE "INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS" INTO JAPANESE TERRITORY. SUGIHARA SAID THAT THIS DISAGREEMENT, WHICH HAS ALREADY FORCED POSTPONEMENT OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR CARACAS BY ONE WEEK, MIGHT ULTIMATELY HAVE TO BE SETTLED AT TOP POLITICAL LEVEL. PRIME MINISTER TANAKA IS AWARE THAT THERE IS A DISAGREEMENT, SUGIHARA SAID, BUT HAS NOT YET INVOLVED HIMSELF IN IT. SUGIHARA ADDED THAT DEBATE WAS NOT SIMPLY ON MERITS OF STRAITS ISSUE BUT ALSO INVOLVED LDP FACTIONAL INFIGHTING (I.E. OHIRA VS YAMANAKA).

2. THE ECONOMIC ZONE: SUGIHARA SAID THAT FISHERIES AGENCY WAS STILL OBJECTING TO CONCEPT OF THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE BECAUSE OF "DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS".

3. PRG AND KHMER REPRESENTATION: POL COUNS MENTIONED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ISSUE OF PRG/KHMER REPRESENTATION BEING RAISED AGAIN AT LOS CONFERENCE. SUGIHARA APPEARED SURPRISED THAT ISSUE MIGHT COME UP BUT SAID "OF COURSE JAPAN'S POSITION ON THIS QUESTION HAS NOT CHANGED." IN SEPARATE MEETING DEP. ASST. SEC. SNEIDER BROUGHT UP QUESTION WITH FONOFF ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR TAKASHIMA, AND TAKASHIMA CONFIRMED THAT GOJ POSITION REMAINS FIRM.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE PRESS OF BUSINESS SUGIHARA WAS RELAXED AND MOST FORTHCOMING (AT BEGINNING OF MEETING HE MENTIONED THAT SOVIETS WERE COMING INTO SEE HIM TWO HOURS HENCE
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AND, WITH SMILE, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT TWO MEETINGS WOULD NOT OVERLAP). WE BELIEVE THAT SUGIHARA AND HIS FONOFF COLLEAGUES ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO BRING JDA AROUND ON STRAITS QUESTIONS. ONE INDICATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN ISSUE WAS FACT THAT MEETING WAS INTERRUPTED BY PHONE CALL FROM FONMIN'S OFFICE INQUIRING INTO STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH JDA ON STRAITS PROBLEMS. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR ISSUE CLOSELY.

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